

Objectives:

- Introduce the Mat Man learning tool that was created by Jan Olsen (Handwriting Without Tears).
- Describe how Mat Man teaches children to draw and develop body awareness, communication, social skills, and turn taking giving children opportunity for creativity and success.
- Describe how the COTA, EC Teacher, and Regular Education Teacher collaborated on ways to meet the diverse developmental needs in the NC Pre-k Classroom.
- Describe how a fun, multi-directional and thematic approach to Mat Man was utilized in making learning interactive and engaging while giving opportunities to progress both academically and socially.

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What is the Handwriting without Tears program?

Handwriting without Tears is a multi-sensory handwriting program founded and developed by an occupational therapist, Jan Olsen. She developed the program as a result of the difficulties her own son was experiencing with handwriting while he was in first grade. She provided strategies to support his handwriting skills and his teachers noticed his improvement and asked her to help other students.

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What is the Get Set for School Pre-K program?

The Get Set for School Pre-K program is a part of the Handwriting without Tears program. Jan Olsen co-created this program with another occupational therapist, Emily Knapton. Get Set for School is best described as a school readiness program that prepares young learners for kindergarten by utilizing multi-sensory, developmental, play-based learning tools and activities.

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Class Setting and Student Make-Up

1 Teacher and 1 Teacher Assistant
18 Four Years Olds

NC Pre-K Risk Factors:

- Low Income- 15
- Identified Developmental Disability- 6
- Identified with Autism-1
- Limited English Proficiency- 6
- Documented Delays based on approved developmental screening- 8
- Chronic Health Condition- 2
- Priority to unserved population- 14

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Special Education Services:

Students with special education services:

- 6 - EC Preschool Services
- 3 - Occupational Therapy
- 3 - Physical Therapy
- 7 - Speech Therapy
- 1 - Music Therapy
- 1 - Full-time Nursing Services
- 1 - Hearing Impaired Services
- 2 - Behavioral Support Services

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Multi-disciplinary Collaboration

- NC Pre-k Classroom's curriculum: Teaching Strategies Goals and Objectives
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Fine Motor Skills
- Sensory Motor Skills
- Social and Emotional Developmental Needs
- Special Education Goals with Related Services
 - Fine and Visual Motor Goals
 - Speech and Language Goals
 - Gross Motor Goals
- Inclusion

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Who is Mat Man?

Mat Man is a fun character that was created as a multisensory teaching tool by HWT Get Set for School Program to help young children develop essential readiness skills in the areas of body awareness, pre-writing, number awareness, building, social and communication skills.



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What does Mat Man teach?

By engaging in Mat Man activities, young children learn skills in the areas of:

- **Prewriting/Writing** – by learning prewriting strokes, grasp on small tools, establishing hand dominance, emerging handwriting skills, perceptual skills with building and drawing and building foundational skills in letter formation.
- **Sensory/Motor** - by developing body awareness in body part identification, orientation, and function, motor skills in the manipulation and tactile exploration of materials, large muscle movements and use of two sides of the body to perform movements with songs.

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What does Mat Man teach?

- **Communication/Language** - by using positional terms appropriately, parts of speech, answering "WH" questions, using adjectives (descriptors), verbs, and adverbs when describing Mat Man and other variations, vocabulary, and overall language concepts.
- **Social/Emotional** – by learning skills in listening, turn taking, cooperation, interaction with peers and adults, group work behavior, empathy, sharing materials and attention to task.

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Mat Man Online Game



Build Mat Man!
Welcome! Have fun, play, and explore with Mat Man.

<https://www.hwtears.com/hwt/learning-lounge/mat-man-world>

(Must have free subscription to access online game)

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Mat Man How-To Video

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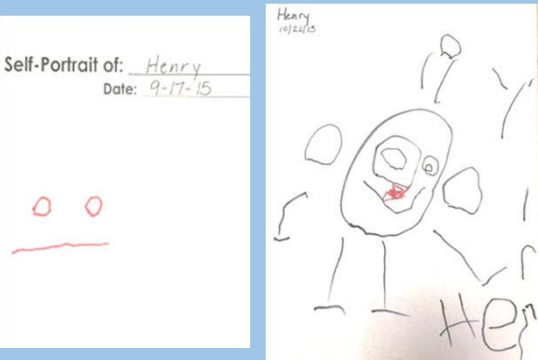
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
Self-Portrait of: Henry
Date: 9-17-15




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Self-Portrait of: Leandro
Date: 9-17-15



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Self-Portrait of: Lucas
Date: 9-17-15



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Mat Man Multi-Thematic Photos & Drawings

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Jack O' Lantern Mat Man

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Pilgrim Mat Man

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Santa Mat Man

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Snowman Mat Man

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A. Video

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Mat Girl

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Cat in the Hat Mat Man

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Bunny Mat Man

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Baby Mat Man

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Make It & Take It

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Appstate Football Players wearing RED for Aiden's Army

Aiden, is a first grader at Hardin Park, who was diagnosed with cancer. The entire High Country, as well as our Hardin Park School family, also known as "Aiden's Army," designed many events and fundraisers to show our support.


We took the opportunity to engage the preschool class in showing their support by donning their red shirts and dressing Mat Man in his very own Aiden's Army t-shirt!






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Aiden's Army Mat Man




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Aiden's Army Drawing

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Classroom Activity Photos

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Small Group Craftivity in the Classroom

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Small Group Activity with Playdough

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Small Group Activity- Mat Man Game

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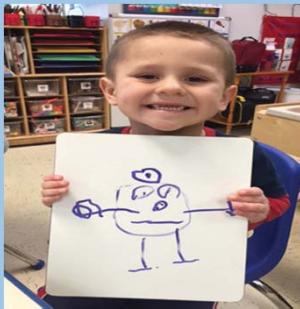
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Free Play in Block Area

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Free Play Dry Erase Drawing

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Free Play Drawing Outdoors

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Sidewalk Chalk on the Playground

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Community Helpers Puzzles

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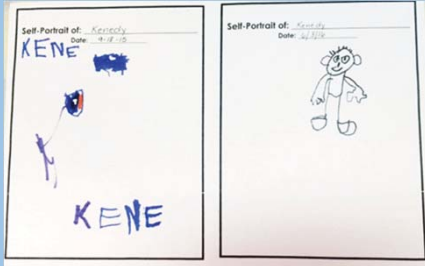
Self Portraits



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Self Portraits



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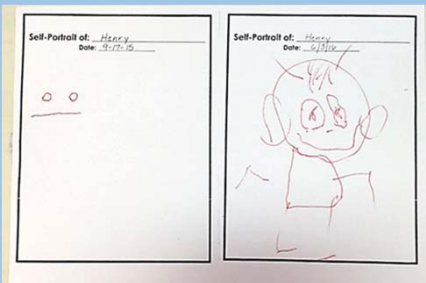
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Self Portraits




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Kindergarten Orientation

Student: Chase
Draws a Person (Orientation)


Student: Kristian
Draws a Person (Orientation)


Student: Stephanie
Draws a Person (Orientation)


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Happy Birthday Mat Man

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Make It Snack Time

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C. Video

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Q & A Time

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Resources:

All of the resources below were utilized by our team and found on the HWT Mat Man World website. Many other teaching activities and resources can be found at this website as well.

- Mat Man Teaches Body Awareness
https://www.hwtears.com/files/Mat_Man_Activities.pdf
- Mat Man Pilot Study
https://www.hwtears.com/files/Mat_Man_Study.pdf
- Directions for Using Mat Man
<https://www.hwtears.com/files/click/HWT%20Meet%20Mat%20Man.pdf>

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- Mat Man Books Sample Pages
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.hwtears.com/downloads/matmanbooks.pdf>
- Mat Man Rock Song Lyrics
<https://www.hwtears.com/files/click/HWT-ROCK-lyrics-Mat-Man-Rock.pdf>

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